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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 25 January 1993 addressed to you by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. George Vassiliou (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. J. JACOVIDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Cyprus to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Letter dated 25 January 1993 from the President of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Our meeting in Paris was a very fruitful one and I would like once more to express to you my thanks and appreciation for rendering it possible. It is indeed of great importance to give to all concerned the message for the urgent need for progress in our efforts for a just solution of the Cyprus problem and the determination of the international community not to accept the faits accomplis created by the Turkish invasion and occupation of part of Cyprus.

In this respect I noted with satisfaction the recent resolution of the European Parliament on Cyprus, which contributes constructively to our efforts.

Unfortunately the attitude and response of the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, is becoming increasingly menacing and hubristic. Not only does Mr. Demirel show utter contempt for the Security Council, but in a recent statement in the Turkish daily Millyet, a translation of which I enclose for your information (see appendix), he added threats to insult. Indeed, he stated that if there were international pressures for arrangements in Cyprus unacceptable to Turkey, "they [the Cypriots] will regret the day when their mother gave them birth", adding that "Adana [Turkey] Airport is only six minutes from Nicosia". Mr. Demirel also said that "nothing can happen in Cyprus which is not the will of Turkey". The message these statements carry is more than clear.

I am certain that you share my belief that statements like these constitute an insult to the international community as such, and augur very badly for the future. Instead of complying with resolution 789 (1992), the Prime Minister of Turkey threatens a small and defenceless country, part of which is occupied by his country's troops.

Furthermore, there is a warning to the international community and the Security Council that it can decide nothing that Turkey does not want. Such an insolent and crude statement is without precedent and runs counter to the purposes of the Charter, to international law and the principles that should govern international relations and behaviour.

I am writing this letter to you not only to acquaint you with the contents of this disgraceful statement, but in order to request that, through you, the Security Council be recalled to take such action as is deemed necessary to oblige Turkey to observe international legality and to remind her of the Security Council's determination to ensure compliance with all its resolutions without exception.

(Signed) George VASSILIOU

APPENDIX

Translation of a report by Erkan Avcilas published in Millyet on 22 January 1993

Demirel: "It's six minutes from Adana to Nicosia"

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said that nothing will happen in Cyprus which Turkey does not want; the Turkish Cypriots had honour and pride and "they will be sorry they were born. Nicosia is six minutes from Adana Airport".

Replying to President Turgut Ozal's statement, without making specific reference, that if it was up to him he would cause trouble in the Balkans, Demirel said: "Whoever said these words should be a little careful".

The Prime Minister, who attended the International 2420 Regional Rotary Club dinner at the Swiss Hotel in Istanbul, replying to the question "What will happen if what has been done to the Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina is repeated in Cyprus and if certain measures are taken against Turkey to force it to make concessions on Cyprus?", said:

> "Nothing will happen in Cyprus. Cyprus is Turkey's honour and pride. The credibility and strength of Turkey in the world is the guarantee of Cyprus."

Stating that no one should worry, Demirel said: "They will be sorry they were born. Nicosia is six minutes from Adana Airport".